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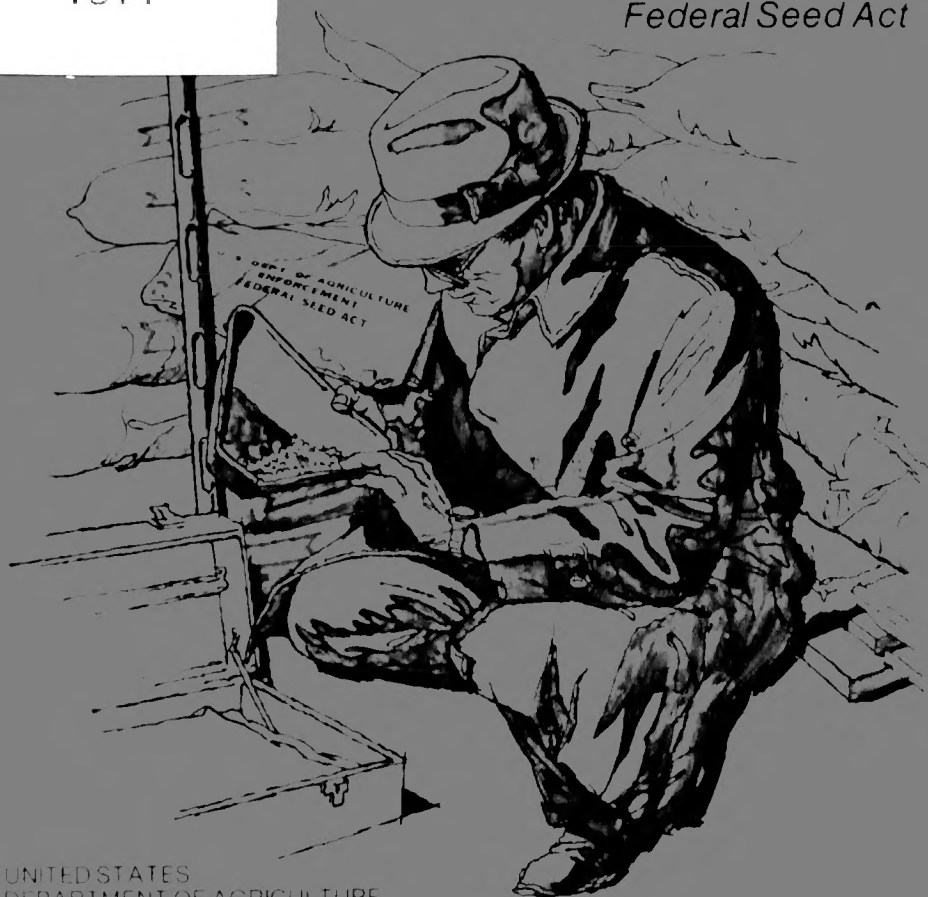
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A GUIDE FOR U.S. CUSTOMS INSPECTORS

SAMPLING SEED

*... Offered for
importation
under the
Federal Seed Act*

Reserve
a02114
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1977



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The importation of agricultural and vegetable seed is regulated by the Federal Seed Act. The purpose of the import provisions of the act is to prohibit the importation of low quality seed. If seed is to be admitted into the United States, the amount of weed seed cannot exceed specified quantities, and the labeling must be truthful.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAMPLING

The joint regulations under the Federal Seed Act, administered by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Agriculture, provide that the collectors of customs have direct responsibility for sampling seed offered for importation.

THE KINDS OF SEED TO BE SAMPLED

Obtain samples of the following kinds only when declared for seeding purposes:

Barley	Hemp	Rape, bird
Bean, adzuki	Lentil	Rape, turnip
Bean, field	Lettuce	Rape, winter
Bean, horse or broad	Lupine	Rice
Bean, lima	Millet, foxtail	Rye
Bean, mung	Millet, proso	Safflower
Buckwheat, common	Mustard, India	Sesame
Canarygrass	Mustard, black	Sorghum
Castorbean	Mustard, white	Soybean
Celery	Oat	Sunflower
Chickpea	Parsley	Triticale
Corn, field	Pea, garden	Velvetbean
Cowpea	Pea, field	Vetch
Crambe	Peanut	Watermelon
Flax	Pepper	Wheat
Guar	Pumpkin	
	Rape, annual	

Obtain samples of all other kinds subject to the act regardless of the purpose for which imported. The kinds of agricultural and

vegetable seeds subject to the act are found listed in the following tables of this publication or section 201.2(h) & (i) of the rules and regulations under the Federal Seed Act.

It is not usually practical to sample lots that weigh less than the weights listed in the middle column of figures below. (See section 201.221a of the joint regulations.)

<i>Agricultural seeds</i>		
Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Agrotricum	100	500
Alfalfa	25	100
Alfilaria	25	100
Alyceclover	25	100
Bahiagrass	25	100
Barley	100	500
Barrelclover	25	100
Bean, adzuki	100	500
Bean, field	100	500
Bean, mung	100	500
Bean (see Velvetbean)	—	—
Beet, field	100	500
Beet, sugar	100	1,000
Beggarweed	25	100
Bentgrass, colonial	25	100
Bentgrass, creeping	25	100
Bentgrass, velvet	25	100
Bermudagrass, common	25	100
Bermudagrass, giant	25	100
Bluegrass, bulbous	25	100
Bluegrass, Canada	25	100
Bluegrass, glaucantha	25	100
Bluegrass, Kentucky	25	100
Bluegrass, Nevada	25	100

Agricultural seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Bluegrass, rough	25	100
Bluegrass, Texas	25	100
Bluegrass, wood	25	100
Bluestem, big	25	100
Bluestem, little	25	100
Bluestem, sand	25	100
Bluestem, yellow	25	100
Brome, field	25	100
Brome, meadow	25	100
Brome, mountain	25	100
Brome, smooth	25	100
Broomcorn	100	500
Buckwheat	100	500
Buffalograss	25	100
Buffelgrass	25	100
Burclover, California	25	100
Burclover, spotted	25	100
Burnet, little	25	100
Buttonclover	25	100
Canarygrass	25	100
Canarygrass, reed	25	100
Carpetgrass	25	100
Castorbean	100	100
Chess, soft	25	100
Chickpea	100	500
Clover, alsike	25	100
Clover, arrowleaf	25	100
Clover, berseem	25	100
Clover, cluster	25	100
Clover, crimson	25	100
Clover, Kenya	25	100
Clover, large hop	25	100
Clover, small hop (suckling)	25	100
Clover, ladino	25	100
Clover, lappa	25	100
Clover, Persian	25	100

Agricultural seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Clover, red or	25	100
Red clover, mammoth	25	100
Red clover, medium	25	100
Clover, rose	25	100
Clover, strawberry	25	100
Clover, sub (subterranean)	25	100
Clover, white (also see clover, ladino)	25	100
Clover (also see Alyceclover, Burclover, Buttonclover, Sourclover, Sweetclover)	—	—
Corn, field	100	1,000
Corn, pop	100	1,000
Cotton	100	500
Cowpea	100	500
Crambe	25	100
Crested dogtail	25	100
Crotalaria, lance	25	100
Crotalaria, showy	25	100
Crotalaria, slenderleaf	25	100
Crotalaria, striped	25	100
Crotalaria, Sunn	25	100
Crownvetch	25	100
Dallisgrass	25	100
Dichondra	25	100
Dropseed, sand	25	100
Emmer	100	500
Fescue, Chewings	25	100
Fescue, hair	25	100
Fescue, hard	25	100
Fescue, meadow	25	100
Fescue, red	25	100
Fescue, sheep	25	100
Fescue, tall	25	100
Flax	25	100
Gramma, blue	25	100

Agricultural seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Grama, side-oats	25	100
Guar	25	100
Guineagrass	25	100
Hardinggrass	25	100
Hemp	100	500
Indiangrass, yellow	25	100
Indigo, hairy	25	100
Japanese lawnglass	25	100
Johnsongrass	25	100
Kudzu	25	100
Lentil	25	100
Lespedeza, Korean	25	100
Lespedeza, sericea or Chinese	25	100
Lespedeza, Siberian	25	100
Lespedeza, striate	25	100
Lovegrass, sand	25	100
Lovegrass, weeping	25	100
Lupine, blue	100	500
Lupine, white	100	500
Lupine, yellow	100	500
Manilagrass	25	100
Meadow, foxtail	25	100
Medick, black	25	100
Milkvetch	25	100
Millet, browntop	25	100
Millet, foxtail	25	100
Millet, Japanese	25	100
Millet, pearl	25	100
Millet, proso	25	100
Molassesgrass	25	100
Mustard, black	25	100
Mustard, India	25	100
Mustard, white	25	100
Napiergrass	25	100
Oat	100	500
Oatgrass, tall	25	100

Agricultural seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum	Maximum
	weight for sampling	weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Orchardgrass	25	100
Panicgrass, blue	25	100
Panicgrass, green	25	100
Peanut	100	500
Pea, field	100	500
Poa trivialis (see Bluegrass, rough)	—	—
Rape, annual	25	100
Rape, bird	25	100
Rape, turnip	25	100
Rape, winter	25	100
Redtop	25	100
Rescuegrass	25	100
Rhodesgrass	25	100
Rice	100	500
Ricegrass, Indian	25	100
Roughpea	100	500
Rye	100	500
Ryegrass, Italian or annual	25	100
Ryegrass, perennial	25	100
Ryegrass, Wimmera	25	100
Safflower	100	500
Sainfoin	100	500
Saltbush, fourwing	25	100
Sesame	25	100
Sesbania	25	100
Smilo	25	100
Sorghum	100	1,000
Sorghum alnum	25	100
Sorghum-sudangrass hybrid	100	1,000
Sorghum	25	100
Sourclover	25	100
Soybean	100	500
Spelt	100	500
Sudangrass	25	100
Sunflower	100	500

Agricultural seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Sweetclover, white	25	100
Sweetclover, yellow	25	100
Sweet vernalgrass	25	100
Switchgrass	25	100
Timothy	25	100
Timothy, turf	25	100
Tobacco	1	1
Trefoil, big	25	100
Trefoil, birdsfoot	25	100
Triticale	100	500
Vaseygrass	25	100
Veldtgrass	25	100
Velvetbean	100	500
Velvetgrass	25	100
Vetch, common	100	500
Vetch, hairy	100	500
Vetch, Hungarian	100	500
Vetch, Monantha	100	500
Vetch, narrowleaf	100	500
Vetch, purple	100	500
Vetch, woolypod	100	500
Wheat x Agroticum	100	500
Wheat, common	100	500
Wheat, club	100	500
Wheat, durum	100	500
Wheat, Polish	100	500
Wheat, poulard	100	500
Wheatgrass, beardless	25	100
Wheatgrass, fairway crested	25	100
Wheatgrass, standard crested	25	100
Wheatgrass, intermediate	25	100
Wheatgrass, pubescent	25	100
Wheatgrass, Siberian	25	100
Wheatgrass, slender	25	100
Wheatgrass, streambank	25	100
Wheatgrass, tall	25	100

Agricultural seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Wheatgrass, western	25	100
Wildrye, Canada	25	100
Wildrye, Russian	25	100
Zoysia Japonica (see Japanese lawnglass)	—	—
Zoysia matrella (see Manilagrass)	—	—



Vegetable seeds

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Artichoke	25	50
Asparagus	25	50
Asparagusbean	25	50

Vegetable seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Bean, garden	25	200
Bean, lima	25	200
Bean, runner	25	200
Beet	25	50
Broadbean	25	200
Broccoli	5	10
Brussels sprouts	5	10
Burdock, great	10	50
Cabbage	5	10
Cabbage, tronchuda	5	10
Cantaloupe (see muskmelon)	—	—
Cardoon	10	50
Carrot	5	10
Cauliflower	5	10
Celeriac	5	10
Celery	5	10
Chard, Swiss	25	50
Chicory	5	10
Chinese cabbage	5	10
Chives	5	10
Citron	25	50
Collards	5	10
Corn, sweet	25	200
Comsalad	5	10
Cowpea	25	200
Cress, garden	5	10
Cress, upland	5	10
Cress, water	5	10
Cucumber	25	50
Dandelion	5	10
Eggplant	5	10
Endive	5	10

Vegetable seeds (continued)

Kind	Minimum weight for sampling	Maximum weight for experimental purposes
	Pounds	Pounds
Gherkin, West India	25	50
Kale	5	10
Kale, Chinese	5	10
Kale, Siberian	5	10
Kohlrabi	5	10
Leek	5	10
Lettuce	5	10
Muskmelon	25	50
Mustard, India	5	10
Mustard, spinach	5	10
Okra	25	50
Onion	5	10
Onion, Welsh	5	10
Pak-choi	5	10
Parsley	5	10
Parsnip	5	10
Pea	25	200
Pepper	5	10
Pumpkin	25	50
Radish	25	50
Rhubarb	5	10
Rutabaga	5	10
Salsify	25	50
Sorrel	5	10
Soybean	25	200
Spinach	25	50
Spinach, New Zealand	25	50
Squash	25	50
Tomato	5	10
Tomato, husk	5	10
Turnip	5	10
Watermelon	25	50

DECLARATION AND LABELING REQUIRED BEFORE SAMPLING PROCEEDS

Declaration of Labeling

Sampling of agricultural and vegetable seed must not proceed unless a "declaration of labeling" has been filed by the importer for each lot of seed being imported. The labeling on the container should be compared with the information given in the declaration of labeling to determine whether the declaration is complete and accurate. Any discrepancy should be brought to the attention of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (See section 201.228a of the joint regulations.)

Declaration for Experimental or Breeding Purposes or Seed Production by the Importer

Seed declared for experimental or breeding purposes and not for sale is exempt from the prohibition against seed that is adulterated or unfit for seeding purposes. When seed is declared for experimental or breeding purposes, it need not be sampled for testing if it does not exceed amounts specified in the right column in the tables on pages 2-10.

Seed declared for sowing for seed production only, by the importer, and not for sale, is exempt from the pure live seed requirements and staining requirements. Sampling is necessary, however, to test for noxious-weed seeds.

Declarations as mentioned above are to be filed by the importer with the Seed Branch, Grain and Seed Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, for approval. A copy may be filed with the entry papers also. The declaration should read substantially as follows:

‘..... The undersigned declares :
that he is a resident of _____;
that he is _____ of the firm
of _____; that he (is) (represents)
the (owner) (consignee) of the _____ pounds
of _____ seeds offered for importation
at _____ under entry No. _____
contained in _____ bags marked _____
as described in invoice No. _____
dated _____: that said seed is being imported
for (making selections, crosses, tests, or for
other experimental or breeding purposes) or (seed
production only) and will not be sold ’

Signed _____

Dated _____

Labeling

Sampling of agricultural seed must not proceed unless each container is labeled to show:

1. The name of the kind
2. A lot number or other mark

Sampling of vegetable seed must not proceed unless each container is labeled to show:

1. The name of the kind and variety
2. A lot number or other mark

As indicated in section 201.218 of the joint regulations under the Federal Seed Act (see TD-50071 and amendments), seed cannot be released from customs custody under a redelivery bond unless each container of seed is labeled as shown above.

Customs regulations require that the name of the country of origin also be shown on the containers.

Treated Seed

Seed may be treated with fungicides or pesticides prior to entry, in which case each container shall be labeled to show that it is treated, the chemical (generic) or commonly accepted coined name, or standard abbreviated chemical name of the substance, or a description of the process, and if the substance remaining on the seed is harmful or toxic to consumers an appropriate caution statement, such as "Do not use for food, feed, or oil purposes" or "Poison (and a skull and crossbones)." The labeling statement should also appear on the declaration of labeling.

Samples of treated seed should be packed in plastic bags inside of cloth bags for sending to the seed laboratory. The plastic bags are furnished by the Seed Branch upon request. The hands should be washed thoroughly with soap after sampling seed treated with harmful or toxic chemicals.

THE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE — ITS IMPORTANCE

The objective of sampling is to obtain a sample that represents each individual lot of seed offered for importation. A representative sample is a must if seed quality is to be accurately measured for the following reasons:

1. To prohibit the importation of low quality seed. Low quality seed must first be detected if it is to be prohibited entry. Representative samples are essential for detection.
2. To furnish the importer with accurate test results on the seed he is importing. Samples drawn by customs officials may be tested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (on a fee basis) upon request of the importer. The importer may use the test results to label the lot with information required by State and/or Federal seed laws. If the sample tested is not representative of the lot, future labeling may be inaccurate.

3. To provide the Bureau of Customs with accurate tests for use in classification or appraisement.

4. To promote efficient handling of importations by the Bureau of Customs and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The present heavy workload of the Bureau of Customs and USDA in handling importations is unnecessarily increased by the failure to obtain representative samples.

HOW TO DRAW A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

1. Sample the required number of bags from each lot.

Before starting to sample, determine the number of bags declared on the entry papers, the number of bags actually on hand, and the number of bags that must be sampled. The number to be sampled may be determined from the following:

Number of bags which must be sampled

Number of of bags on hand	Minimum number sampled	Number of bags on hand	Minimum number sampled
1 to 6	*	125 to 134	18
7 to 14	6	135 to 144	19
15 to 24	7	145 to 154	20
25 to 34	8	155 to 164	21
35 to 44	9	165 to 174	22
45 to 54	10	175 to 184	23
55 to 64	11	185 to 194	24
65 to 74	12	195 to 204	25
75 to 84	13	205 to 214	26
85 to 94	14	215 to 224	27
95 to 104	15	225 to 234	28
105 to 114	16	235 to 244	29
115 to 124	17	245 to 254	30
		255 or more	30

* Sample each bag, and take at least five trierfuls.

2. Use a probe or trier long enough to reach all portions of the container being sampled.

In most importations a 30-inch or 39-inch trier will reach all portions of the container being sampled.

3. When there is more than one lot in an importation, sample each lot separately.

As the sample is being drawn, check the lot number on each bag sampled to make certain that a bag from another lot is not being sampled.

4. The portion drawn from each bag should be examined to determine whether it is apparently of similar quality as the portions drawn from the other bags identified by the same lot number or mark. If any portion appears not similar, the portion should be kept separate and identified as a subsample, and the corresponding bag should be marked in a similar manner for later identification; for example: "Sub-sample No. 1." Further examination of the lot may be appropriate to determine the extent of the apparent lack of uniformity.
-

5. CAUTION: Always wash your hands and any other part of your body which may have been in contact with seed treated with a poisonous substance.
-

SAMPLING REGULATIONS UNDER THE FEDERAL SEED ACT (7CFR 201.208-201.230)

Sampling

201.208 *Seed*

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the collector of customs shall draw and forward samples of all seed imported or offered for importation into the United States except the kinds named on page 1 of this handbook which he shall sample only when imported for seeding purposes and when declared for seeding purposes.

(b) It is not ordinarily practical to sample and test small lots in importations of seed. Minimum weights for sampling are shown in the tables on pages 2-10 of this handbook and in table 5 in section 201.221a of the joint regulations. No release by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be necessary for seed not sampled.

201.221(c) *Seed for experimental or breeding purposes*

Seed declared for experimental or breeding purposes and not for sale is exempt from the prohibition against seed that is adulterated or unfit for seeding purposes. When so declared, it need not be sampled for testing if it does not exceed amounts specified in the tables on pages 2-10.

201.221(d) *Seed for seed production only.*

Seed declared for sowing for seed production only, by the importer, and not for sale, is exempt from the pure live seed requirements and staining. Sampling is necessary, however, to test for noxious-weed seeds.

201.209 *Screenings*

The collector of customs shall, upon request received from the Agricultural Marketing Service, prior to importations, draw and forward samples of all screenings imported or offered for importation into the United States.

201.210 *Method of sampling*

(a) In order to secure a representative sample, equal portions shall be taken from evenly distributed parts of the quantity of seed or screenings to be sampled. Access shall be had to all parts of that quantity. When more than one trierful of seed is drawn from a bag, different paths shall be followed. When more than one handful is taken from a bag, the handfuls shall be taken from well-separated points.

(b) For free-flowing seed in bags or bulk, a probe or trier shall be used. For small free-flowing seed in bags a probe or trier long enough to sample all portions of the bag should be used.

(c) Non-free-flowing seed, such as grass seed, uncleaned seed, or screenings difficult to sample with a probe shall be sampled by thrusting the hand into the bulk and withdrawing representative portions. The hand shall be inserted in an open position and the fingers shall be held closely together while the hand is being inserted and the portion withdrawn.

(d) The portions shall be combined into a composite sample except that if the quantity represented to be a lot does not appear to be of uniform quality as required in paragraph (e) of this section the separate portions shall be forwarded together but without being combined into a composite sample.

(e) A quantity of seed designed as one lot shall be regarded as such for sampling only if every portion or bag of seed in the

quantity is uniform within permitted tolerances as to percentage of pure seed, percentage of germination and hard seed, percentage of weed seed, and rate of occurrence of noxious-weed seeds.

(f) When an importation consists of more than one lot, each lot shall be sampled separately.

(g) Sampling shall not proceed unless (1) each container is stenciled or otherwise labeled to show the lot designation and the name of the kind, or kind and variety, appearing on the invoice and other entry papers and (2) a "Declaration of Labeling" has been filed by the importer of record as required under section 201.228a.

201.211 *Bulk*

Bulk seeds or screenings shall be sampled by inserting a long probe or thrusting the hand into the bulk as circumstances require. At least as many trierfuls or handfuls as the minimum required for the same quantity of seed or screenings in bags of a size customarily used for such seed or screenings shall be taken.

201.212 *Bags*

(a) For lots of six bags or less, each bag shall be sampled. A total of at least five trierfuls shall be taken.

(b) For lots of more than six bags, five bags plus at least 10 percent of the number of bags in the lot shall be sampled. (Round off numbers with decimals to the nearest whole number, raising 0.5 to the next whole number). Regardless of the lot size, it is not necessary that more than 30 bags be sampled.

(c) When sampling seed in small containers, which it is not

practical to sample as required in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, entire unopened containers may be taken in sufficient number to supply a minimum size sample as required in section 201.213. The sample may consist of the contents of one container, or two or more containers when combined.

201.213 *Size of sample*

Samples of agricultural seed shall be not less than 1 quart. Samples of screenings shall be not less than 2 quarts. Samples of vegetable seed shall be not less than 1 pint, except that samples of one-fourth pint will be sufficient from importations of 5 pounds or less. Unused portions of samples of rare or expensive seeds will be returned by the Department of Agriculture upon request of the importer.

201.230 *Exportation of rejected seed or screenings*

When seed or screenings which have been refused admission into the commerce of the United States are exported, the collector of customs shall notify the office of the Department of Agriculture that issued the notice of rejection and shall also submit to said office a sample drawn from the seed at the time of exportation.

FORWARDING SAMPLES

Samples are forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture seed laboratory which serves the port of entry.

FORM GR-237

U.S. Department of Agriculture form GR-237 describes the sample for the seed laboratory. Usually the importer or his agent prepares the form. The customs officer must check the information on the form for accuracy, insert any pertinent information that is missing, and sign the form. The yellow (last) copy is sent to the ultimate consignee as his notice that the seed must be held intact until released. The pink copy is folded and placed in the sample container along with the declaration of labeling. The original and remaining copies intact with carbons are sent by letter mail to the seed laboratory.

SUPPLIES

Bags, plastic bags as innerliners for treated seed, franked and addressed mailing tags, and form GR-237 are furnished by the U.S. Department of Agriculture seed laboratories to the customs offices upon request. See the following page for addresses and areas served by Seed Branch field offices.

Northeastern Region**States Served**

Federal Seed Laboratory
P. O. Box 1705
985 Patton Street
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Connecticut	New York
Delaware	Pennsylvania
Maine	Rhode Island
Maryland	Vermont
Massachusetts	Virginia
New Hampshire	West Virginia
New Jersey	

Area Code 201
FTS 342-5288
Com 846-4500, Ext. 288

North Central Region

Federal Seed Laboratory
113 Federal Office Building
Washington & Third Ave., So.
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Illinois	Missouri
Indiana	Nebraska
Iowa	North Dakota
Kansas	Ohio
Kentucky	South Dakota
Michigan	Wisconsin
Minnesota	

Area Code 612
FTS 725-2255
Com. Same as FTS

Western Region

Federal Seed Laboratory
801 I St., Rm. 396 - Box 1641
Sacramento, CA 95808

Alaska	Nevada
Arizona	New Mexico
California	Oregon
Colorado	Utah
Hawaii	Washington
Idaho	Wyoming
Montana	

Area Code 916
FTS 448-3134
Com. 449-3134

Southern Region

Federal Seed Laboratory
828 Aronov Building
474 South Court Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Alabama	North Carolina
Arkansas	Oklahoma
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Mississippi	

Area Code 205
FTS 534-7268
Com. 832-7268

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